

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09999 01 OF 02 051530Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----114691 051534Z /44

Z O 051450Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4694

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 9999

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

NKKO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MILI, PORG, UNSC, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 197468; (B) BEIRUT 4484 (C) JERUSALEM 2157
(D) BEIRUT 4473

1. AFTER GOING OVER CAREFULLY SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 5,
ALL OF REFTELS AND AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS,
I TELEPHONED WEIZMAN TO EXCHANGE LATEST VIEWS AND
CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN REF A. HE WAS IN A
DISCOURAGED FRAME OF MIND AND SAW NO IMMEDIATE SOLUTION
FOR IMPASSE. HE CONFIRMED THAT BOTH MEETINGS INVOLVING
HADDAD YESTERDAY HAD GONE BADLY (REF C), INCLUDING THE
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 09999 01 OF 02 051530Z

TETE-A-TETE BETWEEN COLONEL SAAD AND MAJOR HADDAD IN
THE AFTERNOON, IN WHICH THE TWO SPOKE ALONE IN ARABIC
ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM'S REPORT FROM UN SOURCES.

2. WEIZMAN SAID THAT HADDAD WAS EXTREMELY AGITATED
AFTER THESE MEETINGS AND IN NO MOOD WHATSOEVER TO
COMPROMISE. HE HAS ALLEGED THAT CUQ OFFERED HIM

\$150 THOUSAND TO LEAVE THE AREA (*).

I IMMEDIATELY CHIMED IN TO SAY THAT THIS WAS CERTAINLY
RIDICULOUS TO BELIEVE THAT CUQ MADE SUCH AN OFFER AND WEIZMAN AGREED.
WE BOTH THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE THAT CUP HAD TRIED TO

ENCOURAGE HADDAD TO ACCEPT THE LEBANESE OFFER OF MONEY,
WHICH WAS APPARENTLY REPEATED BY SAAD IN YESTERDAY
AFTERNOON'S MEETING AND ANGRILY REJECTED.
WEIZMAN THOUGHT IT ALSO POSSIBLE THAT CUQ HAD AT
SOME STAGE ACTED AS A GO-BETWEEN FOR THE LEBANESE
IN PRESENTING SOME KIND OF MONETARY OFFER. WHATEVER
THE TRUTH IS, HADDAD IMMEDIATELY GAVE THE STORY TO
ISRAELI TELEVISION LAST EVENING, WHICH APPARENTLY
CARRIED IT AND THUS FURTHER COMPLICATED MATTERS FOR THE UN.

3. I THEN SAID TO WEIZMAN THAT I HAD BEEN ASKED THROUGH
AMBASSADOR PARKER TO PUT AS A STRONG PRIORITY REQUEST
FROM THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT
THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: "COULD THE ISRAELIS FORGET
MAJOR HADDAD AND ALLOW THE LEBANESE TO SETTLE THIS
PROBLEM IN THEIR OWN WAY, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT
MAJOR HADDAD WOULD NOT BE HARMED." I REPEATED THIS
REQUEST TWICE VERBATIM DURING OUR CONVERSATION. HE
DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY, AND THE DISCUSSION WENT OFF
IN ANOTHER DIRECTION. I THOUGHT THIS WAS A SIGNIFICANT
INDICATOR OF THE TURBULENT STATE OF MIND HERE AT THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 09999 01 OF 02 051530Z

MOMENT ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT AN INCREASINGLY INTRACTABLE QUESTION.

4. I EXPLAINED TO WEIZMAN THAT BOUTROS SEEMS PREPARED
TO AGREE THAT THE QUESTION OF HADDAD'S STATUS BE SET
ASIDE FOR THE TIME BEING AS PART OF A GENERAL AGREEMENT
OVER MOVEMENTS AND ROUTES, BUT I MADE CLEAR THAT BOUTROS
DID NOT RPT NOT AS YET HAVE THE AGREEMENT OF SARKIS AND HOSS.

5. WEIZMAN AND I THEN TALKED ABOUT HOW THIS ISSUE WOULD
BE DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY VANCE TOMORROW. WEIZMAN WAS
CLEARLY UNHAPPY THAT THE SECRETARY'S MEETINGS HERE
WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH THE LEBANON QUESTION.
HE WANTS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE PROBLEM OF EGYPT, WHICH IS
IN HIS MIND OVERRIDING.

6. I ASKED WHETHER WEIZMAN THOUGHT HE HIMSELF MIGHT HAVE
MORE LUCK WITH HADDAD IF HE WERE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH
HIM. HE SAID HE HAD CAREFULLY NOT BEEN IN DIRECT
CONTACT AND WORKED THROUGH HIS MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND,
AND HE WAS VERY DOUBTFUL HE SHOULD CHANGE THAT
PRACTICE. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD THINK ABOUT IT FURTHER.

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 09999 02 OF 02 051538Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 9999

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

7. AT THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, WEIZMAN SAID HE WANTED TO PONDER "THE WHOLE MESS" AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME ABOUT 6:00 P.M. SATURDAY EVENING TO LET ME KNOW WHERE HE HAS COME OUT. ONCE AGAIN, I TOOK HIS OVERALL REACTIONS AS SUGGESTING THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE WRESTLING VERY HARD WITH THEIR DILEMMA, AND THAT THERE MAY BE SOME HINT OF FURTHER GIVE IN THEIR POSITION.

8. WITHIN 15 MINUTES, GENERAL GAZIT, IDF DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND THE OFFICER CLOSEST TO WEIZMAN WHO HAS BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE WHOLE LEBANESE PROBLEM FROM ITS INCEPTION, TELEPHONED ME. HE HAD JUST HAD A TROUBLED CONVERSATION WITH WEIZMAN. HE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 09999 02 OF 02 051538Z

ASKED ME SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STATE OF PLAY WHICH MADE CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT PRECISELY UNDERSTAND WHAT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AND WHAT HAD BEEN REJECTED BY WHOM THUS FAR. I MADE CLEAR THAT ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO FULL AGREEMENT FROM SARKIS AND HOSS ABOUT THE MANNER OF ADVANCING THE FORCE OR THE PRECISE ROUTE, IT LOOKED TO ME AS IF THESE ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVABLE IN BEIRUT IF THE STATUS OF HADDAD COULD BE RESOLVED. I TOLD GAZIT WHAT I HAD SAID TO EZER ABOUT THE MESSAGE I HAD BEEN ASKED TO PASS TO THE GOI: I.E. PLEASE FORGET ABOUT HADDAD AND LET THE LEBANESE SETTLE THE PROBLEM IN THEIR OWN WAY SO LONG AS IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WOULD NOT BE HARMED. GAZIT SAID HE WAS AFRAID THE ISRAELIS JUST COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH ASSURANCES FROM THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES, IN THE WAKE OF EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED BETWEEN BEIRUT AND THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIANS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

9. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, I HEARD SOMETHING WHICH GIVES ME A RAY OF HOPE THAT WE MAY SEE SOME DAYLIGHT SOON. GAZIT ASKED WHETHER AGREEMENT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS: THE LAF FORCE ADVANCES TO TIBNIN WITH ITS EQUIPMENT IN SMALL CONTINGENTS, ESCORTED BY UNIFIL. THE ROUTE THEY WOULD TAKE WOULD GO SOUTH TO THE BORDER AND THEN ALONG THE FENCE AVOIDING PASSING DIRECTLY THROUGH MARJUYOUN. AND, MAJOR HADDAD'S STATUS IS LEFT IN ABEYANCE FOR THE TIME BEING - WITH HIM ACTING DE FACTO AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY DONE AND WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT THE REQUIREMENT FOR ANY FORMAL REINSTATEMENT OR ANNULLING OF HIS ORDERS BY BEIRUT. I TOLD GAZIT THAT THIS WAS EXACTLY WHAT I THOUGHT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE; IN FACT IT WAS WHAT WEIZMAN AND I HAD DISCUSSED ON THE MORNING OF JULY 28.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 09999 02 OF 02 051538Z

SUBSEQUENTLY, HADDAD HAD INTRODUCED THE ADDITIONAL DEMAND OF FORMAL REINSTATEMENT, AND EVERYTHING HAD BEEN STUCK FROM THEN ON OVER THIS ISSUE. GAZIT SAID HE THOUGHT "PERHAPS WE CAN SOLVE THAT." I URGED HIM TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DO SO, AND HE PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH.

10. GAZIT TELEPHONED ME 15 MINUTES LATER, OBVIOUSLY AFTER TALKING AGAIN WITH WEIZMAN, TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE ANYTHING YET AND THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF DIFFICULT SLOGGING TO DO WITH HADDAD. HE RAISED ONE OTHER IDEA FOR A FACE-SAVING DEVICE WHICH MIGHT BE WORTH EXPLORING IN BEIRUT. IF, HE SAID, THE REGULAR PAYMENT OF SALARY WERE MADE TO HADDAD ON SCHEDULE THIS MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF HIS STATUS FOR HIM TO

ACCEPT (GAZIT CLAIMS THAT SALARIES FOR HADDAD AND OF HIS MEN HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN CASH ON A REGULAR MONTHLY BASIS TO NAQOURA AND THEN TAKEN TO THE ENCLAVES AND DISTRIBUTED BY SOME LEBANESE ARMY REPRESENTATIVE).

11. GAZIT HOPES PERHAPS TO HAVE SOME FURTHER WORD BY THIS EVENING OR TOMORROW MORNING. HE IS CLEARLY DIRECTLY ENGAGED, AND I HAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT WEIZMAN HAS TOLD HIM TO TRY SOME WAY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE BEFORE THE TALKS WITH VANCE TOMORROW. WHETHER HE WILL BE ABLE TO OR NOT, IS VERY DIFFERENT QUESTION.

12. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED TEXT OF THE LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE TO BOUTROS (REF B), I THINK IT IS GENERALLY GOOD, ALTHOUGH I WILL HAVE A FEW SUGGESTIONS TO OFFER ON THE TEXT TO THE SECRETARY IF WE DECIDE TO GO DOWN THIS ROUTE.

13. ONE FINAL POINT: IT SHOULD BE CLEAR NOW TO EVERYONE AFTER THE PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN SAAD AND HADDAD THAT HADDAD HIMSELF IS A MAJOR PART OF THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 TEL AV 09999 02 OF 02 051538Z

PROBLEM, NOT JUST THE ISRAELI DESIRE TO KEEP HIM IN PLACE, ALTHOUGH THAT IS UNDOUBTEDLY A SUBSTANTIAL FACTOR IN THE EQUATION.
LEWIS

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